

(c) if there be truth in the allegation will they please take appropriate action;
(d) if there be no truth in the allegation will the Government please take appropriate action against the Editor of the paper for attempting to lower the prestige of the Government officials by such publication?

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*):

(a) Yes;

(b to d.) The statement referred to is vague and indefinite and Government are not prepared to undertake an enquiry unless more precise information is supplied to them.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon (*Mulakunnathukavu*): May I know whether the number of officers contemplated by that article as "high" is not very limited in the State.

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): The difficulty was who is to be classified as a high officer.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon (*Mulakunnathukavu*): Will not the Government have some idea as to the word "high".

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): All gazetted officers are considered to be fairly high officers in the State.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon (*Mulakunnathukavu*): May I know whether all the gazetted officers are circuiting officers?

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): Not all of them. But many are circuiting officers.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Is it a fact that the clerks in the subordinate offices are getting lesser T. A. than peons now?

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): Clerks do not get lesser T.A. than the peons.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Are they not able to draw only smaller T.A.?

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): Clerks get higher T.A. rates than peons. They get 1½ third class while the peons get only single third class.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Daily allowance, please?

Mr. P. V. Raphael (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): Re. 1 for clerks in the lowest grades and for peons also.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon (*Mulakunnathukavu*): Do the Government expect the House to place the finger upon their officials?

Mr. President: Order, Order. The Hon'ble Member is referring to an article in a newspaper and if a newspaper brings such a charge against a government officer it seems to me reasonable to expect the author of the article in the newspaper himself to communicate in some way with the Government.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon (*Mulakunnathukavu*): Thank you, Sir.

FIREWOOD—PERMISSION TO CUT

46. **Mr. K. Kunhirama Menon** (*Cheruthuruthi*): Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) the number of acres of forests permitted to be cut for firewood in the years 1117, 1118 and 1119 respectively;

(b) the number of petitions received for permission for cutting firewood in 1117, 1118 and 1119;

(c) the names of the above petitioners?

Mr. S. Venkiteswaran (*Conservator of Forests*):

(a) No specific area was set apart wholly for the purpose in 1117, but firewood from regeneration areas and plantations were allowed besides small quantities from the beats for bona fide requirements.

(b) and (c) The time and labour that would be involved in gathering the information would not be commensurate with the benefits accruing therefrom.

I may be permitted to supplement the printed answer by adding "In 18 and 19 most of the firewood removed was from Hill Paddy clearance".

Mr. K. Narayana Menon (*Mulakunnathukavu*): May I know whether the "bona fide requirements" in (a) means bona fide requirements of consumption or for sale?

Mr. S. Venkiteswaran (*Conservator of Forests*): Small quantities for domestic purposes.

FIREWOOD—CONTRACTORS ALLOWED TO DEAL IN

47. **Mr. K. Kunhirama Menon** (*Cheruthuruthi*): Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) number and names of contractors who are permitted to deal in firewood in the years 1117, 1118 and 1119 respectively;

(b) the number of tons of firewood already despatched to British India in the years 1117, 1118 and 1119?

Mr. S. Venkiteswaran (*Conservator of Forests*):

- (a) It does not require a permission to deal in firewood.
(b) There is no possibility of gathering the information.

SANKARANKUTTI MENON (V)—STATEMENT REGARDING BELABOURING BY POLICE

48. Mr. K. Narayana Menon (*Mulakunnathukavu*): Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether they have been duly informed of the public statements made by one Mr. V. Sankarankutti Menon of Irinjalakkuda that he was belaboured by the Police in Irinjalakkuda station;

(b) will they be pleased to state what if any action has been taken in the matter?

Khan Sahib Md. Habibuddin Siddhiki Sahib Bahadur (*Commissioner of Police*):

(a) Without knowing the period covered by the question it is not possible to give a definite answer.

(b) Does not arise in view of answer to (a).

RIKSHAW HIRES—CONTROL OF

49. Mr. M. Krishna Menon (*Trichur-North*): Will Government be pleased to state.— whether any instructions have been issued to police officers in regard to the strict control of the rikshaw hires notified under the Hackney carriages act?

Khan Sahib Md. Habibuddin Siddhiki Sahib Bahadur (*Commissioner of Police*):

Yes.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon (*Trichur-North*): May I know whether any special staff has been deputed for the purpose?

Khan Sahib Md. Habibuddin Siddhiki Sahib Bahadur (*Commissioner of Police*): No special staff was deputed. The field police had been instructed to take stock of such things and take necessary action.

BUS—PROCUREMENT ON LEASE-LEND BASIS FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

50. Mr. M. Krishna Menon (*Trichur-North*): Will Government be pleased to state whether (a) there is not the practice to obtain buses from the Central Government on the lease and lend scheme, and

(b) any steps have so far been taken in this line?

Khan Sahib Md. Habibuddin Siddhiki Sahib Bahadur (*Commissioner of Police*):

(a) Civil Motor Transport vehicles are allotted to this State also by the Government of India.

(b) Yes.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon (*Trichur-North*): May I know the number of buses we have got as per this scheme?

Khan Sahib Md. Habibuddin Siddhiki Sahib Bahadur (*Commissioner of Police*): We have been getting the quota from the Government of India allotted to this State and we allot the buses and lorries to such persons who are engaged in war effort. We give due consideration to all people in the order of priority.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon (*Trichur-North*): Then these buses are not lent for private purposes?

Khan Sahib Md. Habibuddin Siddhiki Sahib Bahadur (*Commissioner of Police*): It is.

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET.

Mr. Shabdai S. Koder. (*Nominated*): Sir, I congratulate the Finance Member and through him the Government for placing before us a surplus budget. The problem today the world over is the post-war questions and before I turn to these subjects, I wish to say a few words on one or two other matters. Like my colleagues, I am happy that Government has increased the dearness allowance to all servants drawing salaries below Rs. 200 but I think it is only fair and equitable to give dearness allowance to all servants irrespective of their salaries. The cost of living has not only hit the poorly paid servants but the higher paid staff too suffers equally, if not comparatively more, as their commitments are great and standard of life higher. I am also pleased that the long awaited legislation for the prevention of begging is now before us. The